

BRUSSELS, July 26th, 1878.  
Steamers leave Mayence for Cologne four or five times a day. We took passage in one of the express boats, bearing the name of "Wilhelm, Kaiser and König." It was not a very pretty name but a very good boat. As we were going down the Rhine, we of course expected to go fast, having the current (which is quite strong) with us. Well, we did go fast, as all those Rhine steamers do—too fast, in fact, to give us sufficient time to examine the old ruins minutely. I think for the purpose of sight-seeing, it is better perhaps to take a boat up the Rhine rather than down, as the steamers move much slower up stream. The upper deck of the Rhine steamer is covered over its entire length with simply a canvas awning. Tables and seats in sufficient numbers are there placed for the accommodation of the passengers, so that they can, if they like, have their meals spread before them in the open air and not lose a bit of the beautiful scenery. Below deck are comfortable cabins and saloons, where passengers may stow themselves in stormy, or even pleasant weather, as they choose.

The Rhine is not just a stream as we had imagined it. It seems nearly as wide as the Mississippi in many places, and we had supposed it much narrower. Its waters are not as clear as the Hudson, and when we saw them, were nearly as turbid as those of the Missouri. We supposed that they were black and clear all the time. The river being wider than we supposed, its hills do not of course present that lofty, craggy appearance we had expected to see. Americans claim that the scenery of the Rhine is surpassed by that of the Hudson. Of course they may be prejudiced. We shall take a trip up the Hudson on our return, and then "compare notes" for the benefit of the Journal readers. But leaving all comparisons out of question, the Rhine scenery combines in the most charming manner the grand, the lovely, the picturesque. It is

"Where Nature, not too sombre nor too gay,  
Would but not rule, and yet not lose sight  
Is to the mellow Earth as Autumn to the year."  
Nearly every hill top seems crowned with one of those old feudal castles. And the very rocks seem "shaped as they had turrets been in mockery of man's art." Each ruin has historical interest lingering about its tottering walls, or is made famous by some pretty legend. It is these ruins which give an indescribable charm to the Rhine, and which transferred to the Hudson might make that stream beyond controversy the most attractive in the world.

The Rhine steamers seem always crowded with tourists, as it was on the day we steamed from Mayence to Cologne. It was a very beautiful day—much like an Indian summer day of our own land. Not long after leaving Mayence we passed by a number of charming islands, to which Charlemagne used to resort for the purpose of fishing while he resided at Ingelheim, not far away. There are many fine country houses in this neighborhood. On a hill, 350 feet above the Rhine, was the chateau of Johannisberg—now the property of the Metternichs. It was formerly given by Napoleon to his good Marshal Kellerman. Napoleon, like Grant, always stood by his friends. Soon came Rüdesheim, noted for its wines and the ancient castle—and then Bingen, where Bingen on the Rhine." While we were impressed with Bingen's loveliness, it was not the "fair Bingen" we expected to see. Just below the town we passed the "Mansturm" (mouse tower), located on a small islet. When I was a boy I read how Bishop Hatto during a famine gathered all the grain in the land in that tower and shut himself therein. The people starved. Thousands of rats collected in battle array, and went hunting after that grain. They stormed the castle and entering every where devoured not only all the grain but the cruel Bishop. Well this little tale made my boyish eyes distend with terror, especially the remembrance of it when going to bed without light on a dark night. I am now getting satisfaction for all that boyish terror. I find that the tower was built long after the death of Bishop Hatto. I also find that the tower is not large enough to contain sufficient grain with which to supply even a small country more than a few days.

Rheinfelden, 620 feet above the Rhine, is a beautiful castle restored by Prince Frederick of Prussia in 1825. A little below, on the left bank, we see the ruins of Falkenberg, destroyed by the Rhine League in 1275. A little further on is the ruined castle of Sonneck, built in 1015, destroyed by Frederick of Hapsburg in 1282, reconstructed in the 14th century. We see in two or three places standing alone medieval watch towers. Now towering above a little hamlet is the ruin of Furstenberg, one of the most picturesque on the borders of the Rhine. It was once a fortification of great strength. It was demolished by the French in 1689. At Bacharach is seen the castle of Staldeck, vast, even now in its ruins, which was the cradle of the Counts Palatine. We now come to the Pfalz, a singular structure still habitable, with a watch tower very remarkable. And opposite this the palace where Blucher with his divisions on the night of the 1st of January, 1814, passed the Rhine to encounter for the last time the legions of Napoleon. Further on, upon the left bank, are the ruins of the castle of Schoenberg. Here the celebrated family of that name once lived. According to the legend, there once resided at Schoenberg seven dwarfs, whose charms had been the cause of many a bloody fray among their noble suitors. So great was the number of the victims of this cruel coquettishness that a river fairly resolved to punish them. They were precipitated into the Rhine and transformed into rocks. When the river is low the boatman points out to travelers the seven dwarfs. Near St. Goarshausen are the ruins of the castle of Rheinfels, the most exten-

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sive upon the Rhine. It was built by one of those old robber chieftains for the purpose of compelling navigation of the river to pay toll to him. His exorbitant and unjust demands resulted in the formation of that League which destroyed so many castles on the Rhine and swept these toll stations out of existence.

We pass the "400 castles of the Brothers," the subjects of so many legends; Marxburg, a perfect specimen of the castle of the feudal ages, and the only one of the old castles now tenanted; Koenigsstuhl, an open temple where the German electors met to make and unmake Emperors; Stolzenfels, one of the most imposing castles on the Rhine, upon which William IV. spent \$2,000,000 in restoring and furnishing it; and finally arrived at Coblenz. In front of the old church of St. Castor, stands a fountain, erected by a French Prefect in commemoration of the entry of the French into Moscow, which bears the following inscription: "The year 1812, memorable for the campaign against the Russians, under the Prefecture of Jules Dozant." How much good it did the Russian Commander all the way down to his boots to place under the above inscription, the following words: "Seen and approved by the Russian Commander of the city of Coblenz, 1st of January, 1814." Opposite Coblenz stands the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, with a history dating back to King Dagobert II, and 633. With its present improvements and additions it is one of the strongest fortresses in the world. It mounts 400 cannon.

Near the old ruined castle of Hammerstein, situated upon a wooded height, is the chateau of Rheineck, the property of a Professor of Bonn. It is a modern castellated residence of great beauty, and admired by all travelers. Then we see the noted castle of Argel, rebuilt in fine style; the beautiful church of St. Apollinare, from which a most pleasing prospect is presented; the castle of Rolandseck, the foundation of which is attributed to Roland, the nephew of Charlemagne. In the midst of the river below is the island of Nonneworth with its old convent. Tradition says that Roland chose the spot on the hill for the site of his castle, because it commanded the view of the convent on the island, in which his Hildegarde had taken the veil after hearing the false report of his death in battle. Right in this neighborhood we had a fine view of the "Seyen Mountains." The most interesting of the group is the Drachenfels, crowned by a ruined castle. On the way to the summit the cave of the Dragon, which is said to have been killed by the horned Siegfried, is shown. I suppose my readers are familiar with the "Niebelungen Lay." Not long ago Harper's Monthly had a very interesting prose version of it.

Behind the lively village of Godesberg, situated on a conical hill, rises a tower 100 feet high, which is all that remains of the castle of Godesberg—built by the Archbishop of Cologne. Soon after passing this we reach Bonn, where the location of the Rhine are said to end. Bonn is noted for its University, which numbers among its professors some of the most eminent scholars in Europe. The number of students is about nine hundred. From Bonn to Cologne the banks of the river are flat, and the scenery is much like that presented on the Southern Mississippi.

We arrived at Cologne after a trip of about six hours' duration. Reluctantly we were compelled to leave the waters of the Rhine with much feeling, and we could repeat the words of Byron, "Adieu to thee, fair Rhine." In Cologne, the greatest object of interest is the Cathedral. It is termed the St. Peter's of the North, owing to its vastness of dimensions. Five hundred years or more they have been working at it, and yet it is not finished. An eloquent priest, with a rich, clear voice, was addressing his audience from a pulpit placed in the central nave, and he could be heard quite distinctly all over the church. While he preached we were not allowed to ramble about the church, and consequently put in our time photographing our "mental retina" the ravishing beauty of its sculptured pillars, altars and beautifully colored windows.

Of course my readers know that this city is the "native heat" of the "original and only" Eau de Cologne. The natural water was not sufficient for the Cologne people, it must be scented. And it was very appropriate that it should be, to drown the natural smell of the streets. We have found Cologne, independent of its Cologne water smell, not unlike Naples. Take away the Eau de Cologne and the city would certainly be a veritable Naples.

About the first thing you hear after your arrival in Cologne is that Johann Maria Farina is the oldest and only genuine distiller of Cologne water. It was an ancestor of his far back, who originated the article, and its composition is a secret in the family to this day. So says his advertisement. He is a great advertiser and cautions the people everywhere against imitators. The "boys rather got it on him," as the saying is, when they went down into Italy and found a man named Johann Maria Farina, who was willing to represent the *bona fide* Johann in the Cologne business. He located at Cologne and caused considerable trouble. But enough of Cologne water.

Gilmore's band gave a concert at one of the gardens in the city. We found there assembled at least two thousand people. There was a shilling sea of silk hats, and hundreds of lace handkerchiefs waved aloft at the conclusion of each performance. With all the beer and wine that was drunk at those round tables, there was no more noise, except in applause, than is heard at any of our American operas. After a number of "Gilmore's best" had been rendered, there were calls for "Yankee Doodle" and several other "Yankee airs." The cheering was deafening upon the rendition of these. I tell you the Germans have a good feeling for us Americans. They love to meet and talk with us, even if they cannot understand a word we say, or be understood in turn.

From Cologne to Brussels our way was through a beautifully rolling country, where we saw again never-ending grain fields—a continuation as it were of the vast wheat fields of Germany. And in the midst of these we saw quaint old wind mills, which seemed familiar, so striking in their resemblance to those of the pictures. We were in a country, too, where there were many manufactures. It was the most thickly populated region I had yet seen. Unbounded was the enthusiasm of our companions over the loveliness of the land. And the names of the towns were nearly as lovely as the country. Here they are: Herbesthal, Dolham, Verviers (custom officers here), Kasual, Nessoran, Le Trooz, Aval, Chantoinne, Chene, Liege (large and progressive), Ans, Horren, Baier, Duren, Langerwehe, Eschweiler, Stolberg, Rothe Erde, Alkour, Rouheide, Birrel, Fexhe, Remicourt, Warremmie, Guignelon, Nourwider, Esmeel, Tirlemont, Campille.

We arrived at Brussels little after 9 o'clock P. M., but were not at all wearied, so pleasant and agreeable was the ride. SENIOR.

## A Supplementary Decision from Secretary Schurz on the Land-Grant Railroad Matter.

Washington, Sept. 3.—The Secretary of the Interior to-day rendered an additional decision to the Commissioner of the General Land Office in the well-known Judymott case. The appeal was taken for reversal or suspension of the former decision. Secretary Schurz declines to do either, and, and the former decision by which large tracts of land, covered by land grants to railroads, were opened to settlement, is stand unless reversed by a decision of the courts. Immense numbers of applications have been made to enter the lands under a former decision. It is expected the railroads will take immediate steps to appeal to the courts.

Secretary Schurz says it has been from the earliest history of this government one of the most important and beneficent principles governing its land policy not to favor the creation of large estates, but of put public lands at such rates, and in such quantities, within the easiest possible reach of the poor and homeless, that the latter might acquire homes for themselves and their families, and thereby promote the healthy development of the agricultural resources of the country. This principle has evidently been kept in view by the law-making power when aiding the construction of national highways by extensive grants of land, and in accordance with it, was it wisely provided in this grant that unless the lands granted were sold by the companies within a reasonable time, they should be open to actual settlement under the auspices of the government of the United States, and under the provisions of the pre-emption law, so that they might be acquired and settled upon by persons of limited means, while the proceeds of such sales are to be turned over to the companies. I am, therefore, of the opinion that an actual sale to a bona-fide purchaser for a valuable consideration within the time limited, is the only disposition which it was intended by Congress should exempt any of said lands from sale under the pre-emption law. Counsel have filed copies of certain mortgages (called deeds of trust), executed by said companies to secure payment of the obligation of the same. Counsel urge that the execution and delivery of these mortgages was, in effect, a sale and conveyance of the legal title of the companies to all lands inuring to them under such grant. For the purpose of determining the question thus presented, it becomes necessary not only to fix the character of the instrument executed by said companies, but also to ascertain whether the legal title to the lands therein described was, by said instrument, conveyed to the trustees therein named. After quoting various prominent legal opinions on the subject of mortgages, to the general effect that a mortgage is a mere security and does not vest in the mortgagee any estate in the land, either before or after the condition is broken, and that payment at default operates to discharge the lien equally with the payment at the maturity of the debt.

The Secretary expresses the opinion that a mortgage in the several States and Territories in which land granted by act of July 1, 1862, and the acts amendatory thereof of July 2, 1864, are located, are not at variance with the legal title but simply a pledge, a security, a lien thereon, and that no estate is by such instrument vested in the mortgagee either before or after the condition is broken. In each and every one of the mortgages presented in this case the legal title, as well as the rights of sale and the disposition of the lands therein described, is retained in the companies, the trustees indorsing the mortgage with a full knowledge of the limitations of right and authority of the companies to make the same. While the companies by the terms of the mortgages had the right to sell and dispose of all sales of lands made. This right of the companies to sell the lands having ceased by virtue of the third section of the act of July 1, 1862, the security of the mortgages will be subrogated by mortgage arising from sales when made by the government.

In concluding, the Secretary says: "After full consideration, I am unable to find any reason for suspension of my decision of July 23, 1878, and you will, therefore, without unnecessary delay, cause directions to be issued to the local officers as therein directed."

While General Grant was in Constantinople the Sultan made him the gift of a beautiful horse. After his Turkish Majesty had shown his palace and gardens to his guest he conducted him to his stables. He ordered his best horses to be put on exhibition, and when they had been sufficiently admired he told the General to make a selection, taking the one which pleased him most. At first the General could not consent to it, and warmly protested against the Sultan's generosity. The Sultan's Minister of War, however, interposed, informing General Grant if he did not accept the gift his Majesty would be much displeased. The General, thereupon selected a dapple gray, superb in form and having a step that would light with admiration the eye of any cavalier. The comparisons were brought out, and the horse in splendid attire, was formally presented to General Grant. The Sultan, at his own expense, has sent the horse to Marseilles, whence he will proceed to this city.

A curious and exciting story has been most cruelly spoiled by an unromantic British Consul. The story was that an English lady—of course young and beautiful, as she was adventurous—had gone beyond the limits of safety on the rocks at Biarritz, and she had fallen into a treacherous lake among the rocks and was drowned. But drowning was not her worst fate. The pool, or Palaise de la Mort, as it was called, was peopled by myriads of "barbets," which have such an insatiable taste for human flesh that within six hours nothing is left of the victim except the bones. Thus Miss Garland was not only drowned, but eaten by the barbets. The whole story, barbed and all, turns out to be a myth. The British Consul declares that it is entirely without foundation. He says there is no such pool as Palaise de la Mort, nor any insects called barbets.

Recently an old gentleman, white-haired and apparently very respectable walked up to one of the paying cashiers' desks in the bank of England, took a chair, mopped his forehead, put his umbrella on another chair, and complained of the heat. He then asked the clerk for a check, and all begged him to be so good as to fill it up—£20 was enough, he said. He then signed it, and in reply to the question, "How he would have it?" he answered, "In gold."

The twenty sovereigns were paid over to him. He put on his hat, buttoned up, and, wishing the cashier a very good afternoon, walked slowly out. The check was signed "Blower." On examination of the signature book it was found that no such man had an account there. The cashier had been in the bank twenty-five years. "Blower" has not yet been seen.—London Truth.

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